

## **Peace Education: A paramount need for conflict resolution and human security**

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**Abstract:** Each of us have a unique way of seeing, hearing and experiencing the world. We are advancing and excelling in every field. Our society is plagued with constant stress, conflict and mental disturbances. The internet, media, news channel and print media is splattered with the information happening anywhere around the world in few seconds. As the society is transforming towards modernization; stress, conflicts and mental disturbance is also accelerating at the same rate. To cope with all these happenings an individual must be educated through the subjects and activities so that one can be adjusted in the society at all levels. Conflict among the individuals is the innate, factual and demonstrative truth. We all are born with some of the traits that are not affordable even by our parents and well-wishers still; they bear this for our betterment.

The present paper will focus on how the transition from peace awareness to peace education will help in ensuring the excellence of the society at a global level. It will highlight the method and different conflict resolution styles adopted by the nation for peace settlement. The paper will conclude with the intangible benefit of peace education in peace building for human excellence.

**Key points:** Conflict Strategies, Human betterment, Peace education, Peaceful Settlement

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Humankind needs to take lessons from its past in order to build a new and better tomorrow. For this one of the significant questions that we need to put forth is: Does peace only mean absence of war? In other words, do the people of peaceful countries live in a green peace in all aspects? Definitely the answer is 'No'. This explanation and definition of peace is traditional. Peace is not a homogeneous phenomenon. The quality of peace relations varies and is subject to change. It is dynamic in nature. The highest form of peace is stable peace, defined as a situation where war or threats of war are unthinkable as instruments for resolving conflicts between states. A peace only visualized in 'Utopia'. Each society develops its own pattern of balancing the needs of its people and the freedom to express their individuality. Peace is very desirable for the proper functioning of a community, group or nation. It is the stage where people are able to resolve their clashes, improve the life styles in a constructive fashion, team work is promoted and achievement of desired goals without violence. No one is born innately peaceful or innately aggressive. Global efforts towards peace and reconciliation can only succeed with a collective approach built on trust, dialogue and collaboration. It is considered that for **betterment of human in all spheres of life**, emphasis should be on the proper orientation of the available conditions in such a manner that each argument, opposition and restriction could be mitigated up to the maximum extent so that **enhancement of human excellence might be favored**. We have to build a grand alliance for a culture of peace amongst all, particularly with the proactive involvement and participation of the young people. The very first requirement of any nation whatever the stage, (developed, developing, under developed) is to handle the other nations in such a manner so that level of conflict must be at the lowest. The priority of the nation is to provide their citizens with the conditions in which everyone feels secure without any fear or threat of violence and laws which minimize structural violence. Every nation wants that the justice should be prevail and trustworthy. Justice should be fair and effective to protect peoples' right. There should not be any claim for the un-accountability of the government to the people in maintaining the peace and mitigating the conflict situation. For the global relationship, the nation should be strong in itself in implementation of laws within their system and make sure that citizens are following those laws effectively. It is seen that even if the laws are made in effective manner but it lack proper implementation it creates the disturbance and clashes among country, peoples and sometime violence against each other and the system. The flourishing of the culture of peace will generate the mindset in us that is prerequisite for the transition from force to reason, from conflict and violence to dialogue and negotiation.

## II. MEANING OF PEACE

### 2.1. Introduction:

Peace commonly refers to opposition, violence, conflict, or war. It can also refer to an internal situation (of nations or state of mind) to overt relations. Peace can be a dichotomy, passive or active, positive or negative, descriptive or normative and so on.

Peace means feeling of security, no fear, calm and restfulness. 'Peace' may be just as elusive to define as other subjective virtues like beauty and love. Peace has found its place in different cultures for example among the Greeks the word '*irene*' (from which comes our word irenic) was derived from a root meaning "linkage", implies harmony and justice as well as the absence of physical violence. Among the Romans peace came closer to being simply the absence of war. In Eastern tradition too, the word '*Peace*' has been used in many ways. '*Shanti*' in India's history, a Sanskrit concept, has been used for benediction, for harmony among people. It not only refers to spiritual contentment but also to peace of mind to cosmic view of peace. Similarly in Arabic the word '*Salaam*' means "*submission*" (to the will of God) and in Hebrew '*Shalom*' embrace not only the absence of war but also well-being, wholeness and harmony with one's self and also between individuals, community and nations. The Chinese '*ping*' also means harmony and achieving unity out of diversity. In Spanish, peace is called '*Paz*' meaning peace and harmony.

**Kant's (1915)** idea of peace is social, national and international. There is no emphasis on individual or on personal morality in his approach. But Peace is not just a cessation of wars, or intervals between wars. Peace is not assured once for all by one heroic act. It must be resolved over and over again. To achieve peace, inner unity, overcoming and healing of inner divisions and the consequent personal freedom are essential attributes. A state where no war exists may not be peaceful.

**Johan Galtung(1969)** introduces a dynamic peace concept. "Peace is what we have when creative conflict transformation takes place non-violently". Further, he defined the terms 'negative peace' and 'positive peace'. Negative peace is defined as the absence of direct, organized physical violence. According to Galtung, positive peace emphasizes the promotion of human rights by removing structural violence and promotion of social justice and equality.

While conceptualizing peace, it may be worthwhile to look in to the philosophy of Sir Aurobindo. Peace according to him is "**contentedness**". Peace can be ensured by nurturing contentedness through controlling our desires. To develop tolerance to ambiguity and differences and lastly stopping competition which only leads man to prove himself superior to others.

All shades of peace come under three basic sources-

- **Inner peace:** Peace with self-contentedness. It exists in a mind without unperturbed thoughts and negative emotions.
- **Social peace:** The state of having tolerance for diversity with the precondition of love and respect for diversity. It implies harmony in human relationships.
- **Peace with nature-** It promotes the warm peace i.e. searching for the common ground and non-human enemies to work on which includes stopping environmental degradation, exploitation, human right abuse, poverty and ignorance. It is aimed at solving the problems related to environment which will be of mutual benefit and will promote harmony with natural environment.

**Mahindra Kumar (1975)** saw three types of movements relevant to peace today: **the passive resistance movement, the peace movement, and the peace research movement**. Because of the peace movement, organizations like the Red Cross, League of Nations, United Nations and the International Court of Justice were conceived.

**Ebadi, (2007)** states that in authoritarian societies, and dictatorship countries, whether political or religious, where any defiance is responded by bullets and imprisonment, peace cannot be stabled or in other words cannot be permanent. One of the most important principles of peace is social justice. Many dictatorship political systems like Germany at the time of Hitler in the contemporary world have been elected in the democratic manner. Therefore, winning elections does not guarantee democracy. The majority that gains power through free elections should observe the framework of democracy.

### 2.2. Peace in Global Scenario

- Peace keeping
- Peace making
- Peace building

**2.2.1. Peace Keeping:** Peacekeeping refers to activities intended to create conditions that favor establishing peace. It is assumed that peacekeeping reduces civilian and battlefield deaths and reduces the risk of renewed warfare. Peacekeeping has unique strengths, including legitimacy, burden sharing and integrating them with

civilian peacekeepers to advance multidimensional mandates. United Nation Peacekeepers provide security and the political support to the countries to make transition from conflict to peace easier and profitable.

**2.2.2. Peace building:** It is a process that helps in the establishment of durable Peace and tries to prevent the violence by considering root causes and ill effects of conflict by adopting various constructive approaches like reconciliation, institution building, and political as well as economic transformation. The term "Peace building" first emerged in 1970s through the work of Johan Galtung.

**2.2.3. Peacemaking:** According to the UN, peacemaking is "action to bring hostile parties to agreement, essentially through peaceful means. Peacemaking is the diplomatic effort intended to move a violent conflict into nonviolent dialogue, where differences are settled through representative political institutions. The objective of peacemaking is thus to end the violence between the contending parties. Peacemaking can be done through negotiation, mediation, conciliation, and arbitration.

### **2.3. Steps in Peace Establishment**

- Conducting research to identify the conflict and its nature.
- Dialogues among the parties involve brainstorming: drawing out the best possible solutions for the peace building.
- Training of 'conflict managers' of the parties involved in conflict evaluation of solutions.
- Adopting and advocating the best solution to resolve the conflict for peace building in future.
- Implementation of the solution to conflict management.

## **III. METHODS OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT**

When nation or States are involved in conflict there are different methods for peaceful settlements:

**3.1. Negotiations:** Negotiations are the simplest method of peaceful settlement of disputes, because in the negotiations the parties to the dispute alone are involved in the procedure. These negotiations may be bilateral or multilateral according to the number of parties to the dispute. Negotiations involve a continuing dialogue between the parties involved in the dispute. To reach a solution, proposal kept by one party should be accepted by other for the advancement of the proposal. If no such proposals are made, the procedure cannot advance. Possibility of compromise will depend upon the merit of the case because of which conflict have taken place.

**3.2. Mediation:** Mediation, as a method of peaceful settlement of international disputes, means the participation of a third State or a neutral individual in negotiations between States in dispute. When conflict Nations is unwilling or unable to resolve a dispute, one good option is to turn to mediation. Mediation is generally a short-term, structured, task-oriented, and "hands-on" process.

**3.3. Conciliation:** Conciliation means a method for the settlement of international disputes of any nature according to which a Commission set up by the nations. The commission may be permanent or on ad hoc to deal with various conflicts prevailing. This helps to proceed forward for impartial dispute resolution, in defining the terms of settlement between the dispute parties and to afford the settlement views so that conflict can be minimized.

**3.4. Arbitration:** Arbitration is a form of **dispute resolution** that is used in place of litigation in the hope of settling a dispute without the involvement of court. "International arbitration has for its object the settlement of differences between States by judges of their own choice, and on the basis of a respect for law"

**3.5. Adjudication:** The International disputes in accordance with international law a formal judgment on a disputed matter. Because of these features - third-party settlement and the application of law - the Court may be regarded as the culmination of a series of methods of settlement of international disputes.

Each conflict is exclusive and has a specific character, and therefore, requires distinctive resolution method. We can analyze the various conflict resolution models at three levels: **international, national and personal**. Depending upon the nature of conflict, the approaches to resolution would vary. The biggest dilemma before the international community is how to determine which conflict should be left to domestic management and which should attract an international action. The absence of any objective guideline, not even by the United Nations, leaves the scope for a very subjective judgment by the powerful countries. Devoid of any true international standards on how to manage conflicts, the liability naturally passes on to the national actors with conventional recipes.

## **IV. CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

*"Conflict is inevitable, but combat is optional." — Max Lucade*

According to **Morton Deutsch (2006)**, there are two types of conflict resolution: **constructive conflict resolution or cooperative social process, and destructive conflict resolution or competitive process**. The competitive processes are associated with "zero-sum" thinking and adversarial behavior while cooperative processes are associated with "positive sum game" and collaborative behavior. In between these two extremes, there exists the option of the use of deadly force (actual or threatened), litigation/ adjudication, arbitration,

conciliation, traditional, mediation, facilitated and non-facilitated problem solving. But as **John Burton (2007)** believed that these methods can be used to settle rather than resolve conflicts. The third party's role is to assist in moving towards the problem solving process and integrative outcomes. It brings about mutual trust and helps bring parties to "break directly into the self-perpetuating conflict spiral" The third party does not have any direct interest or direct stake in the conflict and its outcomes. It will not be affected by the allocation of resources, the exercise of power, the determination of new ruler or the other types of outcomes. What remains at stake is its reputation or professionalism.

Each society when it is set out of balance because of increasing disputes, rise of differences and curbing their freedom. It is imagined that there is little room for the working of peace culture. But the fact is that in every society we have resources that help us to shift from this disturbed state towards peaceful problem solving behavior. We have different agents in our society playing their role in peaceful movements like women, children, tribal communities, secular and faith based organization, religious communities, environmentalist communities etc. It is remarkable to notice that even in most war like or ongoing conflict situations, there are people who can imagine gentle and peaceful way of living.

#### **4.1. Conflict Resolution for International Development**

For development of any nation and to out-shine at international level, nation should be strong enough in accommodating the restrictions imposed by certain peace keeping bodies around the world. All the peace keeping bodies tends to establish the international peace and for the same they try to come on the best possible conflict resolution approach beneficial for all the participants involved. Implication of conflict resolution style varies from situation to situation. Peace may not be established in the societies, where, there is a big class distinction where structural violence prevails. Can we be happy if our neighbors are in the situation of starvation or hunger? How can we establish worldwide peace, when about 75% of the global wealth is owned by 1% of the world's population? History tells us that the societies where there has been a big rift among the poor and rich, it cannot be the peaceful societies. In some countries such as India, millions of people are born homeless. These people live on the streets and die on the streets, while the most expensive and costly hotels and homes are available for about five percent of the population of this country. Should democracy theory be redefined? In a classical issue, the democracy which is well known means the domination of the majority by direct or indirect participation.

#### **4.2. Role of Peace Education in Peace Establishment**

There is no assured guarantee that with the signing of peace agreement among the communities, state or nation peace is maintained but the major work starts after that agreement. There are many instances that the conditions mentioned in the agreement are violated (intentionally or non-intentionally) for the profit of one individual, group or the country but if all this is identified by another party involved then the chance of peace building will reduce if the time and circumstances permit. The other party will also make the full use of the opportunity to violate the rules of agreement. Peace cannot be built in very short span of time; it is a time consuming process. It may take years and sometime decades also.

Peace education challenges the long held belief that war cannot be avoided. Often this belief is based on an underlying view that violence is inherent in human nature. In micro-level, education on non-violent conflict resolution approaches, such as collaborative problem solving, anger management and mediation, can improve the quality of human relationships and bring about solutions that are constructive, fair and helpful to all parties.

Education for peace is an ethical imperative considerations, the rejection of life and well-being caused by all forms of violence. Through peace education we can transcend from conflict resolution to conflict transformation. Conflict transformation is a higher goal compared to conflict resolution. **Lederach (2003)** explains conflict transformation involves changing the way parties look at issues, behavior, and people or groups. Transformation must take place at both the internal and structural levels. It emphasizes the importance of building right relationships and social structures.

When the goals in settling disputes go beyond resolving the issues, the target will aim at building creative solutions that improves relationships. And with proper education and training of personnel will furnish the human excellence that we ever dreamt of.

We are now more equipped with the knowledge about the benefits of having peace and aftermath of disrupting peace than half a century earlier. Presently, we know more about peace, even more than a decade ago. It is accurate to say that, we have an advanced maturity and intellect which probe us to ask the right questions relating to peace. Regarding the different contexts of peace, the eastern cultures have a particular effects and contributions in important contexts of peace such as inner peace and peace with nature, whereas in the western cultures a special effective contribution is in other context like concentrating on changing the outer social world, such as social justice, human rights and especially gender inequality.

## V. CONCLUSION

Establishment of peace globally is of vital importance as with the advancement of science and technology new methods of communication have been evolved and the world is now assumed to be very small. Human have excelled enough to encounter with the problems not only on the local level but also at cosmic level. Advancement in the innovations and new discoveries are challenged and criticized by other nations of the world and which leads to conflict, debates and arguments among them. The collisions and oppositions sometime may reap severe turmoil if not managed timely by adopting appropriate techniques, styles and strategies of conflict resolution as discussed in the paper. Human excellence globally can be achieved only by overcoming the oppositions, challenges and restrictions by using constructive approaches of conflict resolutions. There are different styles of conflict resolutions but the challenge still exists in choosing the appropriate style of conflict. The criteria of adopting a constructive style to any conflict lies in the expanding expertise in peace education and lesson learnt from the past experiences. Hence peace is related to an explanatory or descriptive perspective of our reality, where human excellence, stemming out of peace education will be our ultimate aim. Finally the paper concludes that several creative ideas need to be thought of establishing a multicultural dialogue, as this would eventually result in establishing peace in the entire world.

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